

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are at issue. Claim 1 was rejected as unpatentable over Eguchi (U.S. Pat. 5,359,337). Claims 2 and 3 were rejected as unpatentable over Eguchi further in view of Kitsuda et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,728,962). Claim 4 was allowed. Claim 5 has now been added. The applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the allowance of claim 4 and respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1-3.

The applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Eguchi, because Eguchi does not teach each and every element of claim 1. MPEP 2131. In particular, Eguchi discloses an antenna system that uses mechanical axes (150, 160) for rotational movement of an array antenna (144) along X-Y axes. The array antenna (144) includes antenna elements (146) formed on a base plate which, in turn, is superimposed on a feeding plate via an insulator. The Y-axis (150) fastens the array antenna (144) to an X-axis frame (148), and the X-axis frame (148) is supported on a radome (112) by the X-axis (160) or by legs (566).

Although the frame (148) and legs (566) are each made of a non-conductive material (e.g., resin) (col. 13, ll. 63-67; col. 14, ll. 56-61), not all of the mechanical axes (150, 160), the array antenna (144) base plate, the X-axis frame (148) and the radome (112) are made of a dielectric material. For example, Eguchi does not disclose that the base plate for the array antenna (144) is made of a dielectric material. Rather, the base plate is superimposed on a feeding plate with an insulator as an intermediary (col. 9, ll. 60 to col. 10, ll. 2). The use of an insulator as an intermediary indicates that the base plate is not made of a dielectric material, but is rather made of an electrically conductive material. Additionally, Eguchi does not offer any disclosure regarding the materials used for the mechanical axes (150, 160), and the only disclosure in Eguchi regarding the materials for the radome (112) is that the radome (112) is made of a material that allows radio waves to pass (col. 4, ll. 26-30). In other words, Eguchi does not disclose or suggest that first and second rotation shafts, a platform, an internal frame and an external frame are all made of a dielectric material, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Eguchi. Moreover, as claim 1 is allowable over the art of record, claims 2, 3 and 5 are allowable as being dependent on claim 1. Such action is requested.

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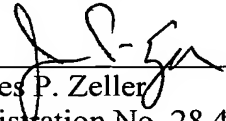
Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the art of record and should be allowed. In the light of the foregoing, prompt issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the examiner have any questions, she is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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